



C O N G R E S S M A N  
**RANDY "DUKE"**  
**CUNNINGHAM**  
51ST DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA



## CUNNINGHAM THANKS TROOPS

### For Efforts in War on Terror

After years of neglect and decline in our military, President Bush committed to restoring the morale and readiness of our forces, and to modernizing our military for the threats of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. But he didn't intend to just throw money at these problems without a sound strategy to resolve them. Instead, he insisted on a comprehensive national security review and looked at ways to not only restore our military, but to also transform its capabilities by pursuing innovative business practices and cutting edge technology developments. The result was a long term plan, starting with a \$48 billion increase for next year's defense budget to rejuvenate the U.S. military.

Regrettably, before the President even had a chance to put his new defense strategy forward, our nation came under attack and we began a long-term war against terrorism. In the critical weeks after 9-11, the military was called to carry out domestic missions that were previously unthinkable. The added costs to support these deployments already tops \$20 billion. If we are to succeed on both fronts – winning the war on terrorism and rebuilding our forces – we must provide the funding necessary to get the job done. Congressman Cunningham voted for passage of two emergency spending packages to support our troops since 9-11, and recently voted for a defense spending bill that will provide the largest increase in military manpower since 1986 and the largest increase in defense spending since 1966. Together, these measures will sustain our commitment to defend our homeland, support our military and fight the war on terrorism.

Our region has played a critical role in the U.S. campaign against terror. From Camp Pendleton to Miramar Marine Corps Air Station to the Naval Base in San Diego, local units have served with distinction and the "military family" that is San Diego has supported them in every way. As the community continues to mourn those lost in Afghanistan, we also have much about which we can be very proud and optimistic. Our troops played critical roles in the successful campaign against Taliban forces, and were aided by cutting edge systems such as Predator and Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System that were built by their neighbors here in San Diego.

Vice President Dick Cheney recently recognized those contributions with a special visit to Miramar. Joined by Congressman Cunningham, Cheney offered a hearty "thanks" to America's finest. The Congressman then toured the facility with the Vice President, pointing out the unique assets that are critical to training our Marine aviators. Concluding the tour, Cunningham told the Vice President, "The invaluable training provided at Miramar has been instrumental to our campaign in Afghanistan, and it will be critical to sustaining our air operations in the war on terror and keeping our forces on the cutting edge in the 21st century."



Vice President Cheney joins Cunningham at Miramar to salute San Diego area military and discuss military readiness and the war on terrorism

Dear Friend,

Looking back on the past year, I am inspired by the surge in our national spirit. Following the terrorist attacks on America, President Bush called on all of us to volunteer to bring our country together and reestablish those local ties that often times are neglected. And America has responded. The resurgence of commitment to community can be found in our homes, our houses of worship, our schools, and our workplaces. The people of North County have responded with soup kitchens and mentoring programs, charitable donations of goods and time. The service of our San Diego military has allowed our country to take an aggressive lead in our War on Terrorism.

I have heard many stories of outstanding individuals in North County who have gone above and beyond this call to aid those in their community through extraordinary service and exemplary acts. I look forward to learning more about the many contributions of individuals in our community during this time of national calling, and hope you will join me in continuing to recognize such outstanding acts by sharing their stories with me either by post or on my website, [www.house.gov/cunningham](http://www.house.gov/cunningham).

Please find in this update my efforts in Congress for the people of the 51st District. It is an honor to serve as your congressman. God bless you and God bless this great nation.

Best Wishes,

*"Duke"*

#### Inside This Edition

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# Making the Tax Cuts Permanent

## Cunningham Believes San Diegans Should Keep More of What They Earn!

Unless Congress passes legislation making President Bush's tax relief permanent, on January 2, 2011, a multi-billion tax increase will be imposed, hitting those who can least afford it. The burden on lower-income taxpayers would shoot up from 10% to 15% – a 50% tax increase. The child tax credit would be halved, from \$1,000 to \$500. The annual contribution limit on IRAs would plunge 60%, from \$5,000 to \$2,000. Parents and children would lose benefits from Coverdell Education Savings Accounts and qualified tuition plans. Incentives for employer provided education assistance would disappear, while the marriage penalty would reappear. And the death tax – phased out by January 1, 2010 – would return from the grave, fully re-grown to 2001 rates on January 1, 2011.

On April 18, 2002, Congressman Cunningham supported passage of H.R. 586, the Taxpayer Relief Guarantee Act of 2002, to prevent the looming tax increase by eliminating the Senate's December 31, 2010, expiration date for tax relief. Sadly, this legislation is sitting before the Senate awaiting consideration. Unless action is taken in the Senate, a family of four in California earning the median income can expect its federal income tax bill to increase by \$2,852 between 2010 and 2011, a 50.2 percent increase. This will roughly equal what the average family of four spends on out-of-pocket health care costs each year.

Making tax relief permanent is an important step toward stronger economic growth and a fairer and more sensible tax system. Republicans in the House of Representatives have already voted for tax relief more than **24 times this year** to reduce the tax burden for hardworking Americans.

**June 13, 2002:**

**HOUSE VOTED TO MAKE PERMANENT THE MARRIAGE PENALTY REPEAL**

**June 6, 2002:**

**HOUSE VOTED TO MAKE PERMANENT THE DEATH TAX REPEAL**

**June 4, 2002:**

**HOUSE VOTED TO MAKE PERMANENT THE EXPANDED ADOPTION TAX CREDIT**

**April 18, 2002:**

**HOUSE VOTED TO MAKE PERMANENT BUSH TAX CUTS**

**February 14, 2002:**

**HOUSE VOTED FOR ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE TO KICK-START THE ECONOMY**



## Cunningham Calls for Corporate Accountability

In the wake of the recent scandals involving Enron, Worldcom, Global Crossing and Arthur Andersen, and a growing concern that more corporate failures could be on the horizon, Cunningham supports reforms to restore the integrity of our markets and hold accountable the corporations and executives who have defrauded investors and harmed the American economic system. Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, testified that the economy is on the road to full recovery after last year's recession and attributed much of the economic growth to the President's tax plan. He emphasized the need to rebuild confidence in our stock market in the wake of these recent scandals, and stated that corporate executives should be held accountable to accurately state the financial condition of their companies.

On July 16th, Cunningham voted for H.R. 5118, the Corporate Fraud Accountability Act of 2002, legislation to punish the wrongdoers that tarnish

the integrity and reputation of all Corporate America - the majority being hard working and honest. The legislation creates stiff penalties and jail terms for executives who deceive investors, and requires criminal penalties for company officials who retaliate against whistle-blowers, making it safe for employees to report these deceptions. These criminals should serve their time in the same jails as common criminals, not in country club prisons.

Cunningham also supported the passage of H.R. 3763 on the heels of legislation to restore confidence in corporate reporting by enhancing the oversight of financial accounting. Cunningham will support legislation that increases penalties for wrongdoers and provides incentives for corporate leaders to act responsibly. Congress will continue to investigate the complicated business maneuvers that led to recent corporate downfalls. Cunningham will support the legislation necessary to close any remaining loopholes and restore the confidence of the American people in our financial markets.



Cunningham discusses Congress' efforts to fund music programs in schools

## Importance of Music Education

At the invitation of Congressman Cunningham, Sesame Street's popular Muppet Elmo and Joe Lamond, President and CEO of International Association of Music Manufacturers (NAMM), headquartered in Carlsbad, CA, testified on April 23, 2002, before the Education Appropriations Subcommittee regarding the importance of music education. Joined by Elmo, Mr. Lamond of Carlsbad, CA detailed the importance of music instruction in every child's core school curriculum, stressing that music education is an essential component of a quality education and should be made available to all children in public schools.

Research is demonstrating an unmistakable link between music learning and academic achievement. Schools that have music programs have experienced dramatic results in student performance in all subjects and improved attendance records. Students who participate in music score significantly higher on standardized tests and are less likely to be involved in gangs, drugs, or alcohol abuse. Unfortunately, too many children have no access to music programs in school. Only 25% of all eighth-graders have the opportunity to participate in music class. Cunningham is working with NAMM to increase access for students to music education. In last year's Health and Education Appropriations Act, Cunningham secured \$100,000 for NAMM to bring musical instruments to more schools in San Diego.





# Improving Education

Cunningham, a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee that funds education programs, believes that education is the key to achieving the American Dream and that students must have the tools they need to succeed. As a father, a former teacher, and a coach, Cunningham fights to ensure that every child can receive a quality education.

**Elementary and Secondary Education:** Late last year, Congress passed and the President signed a plan entitled "No Child Left Behind" to bring accountability to our education system and provide opportunities for ALL children to excel and achieve. This plan, H.R. 1, gives states and local school districts flexibility in spending federal education dollars while holding them strictly accountable for increasing student achievement. H.R. 1 gives students a chance, parents a choice, and America's schools a charge to be the best in the world! For more details on the plan, please visit the Department of Education's website: <http://www.nclb.gov>. Cunningham also annually sponsors the 24 Challenge Math Tournament at the San Diego Aerospace Museum. This tournament seeks to get children excited about mathematics through tournament play, and is wildly popular among students, parents and teachers.

**Special Education Reform and Reauthorization.** The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is up for renewal, and Cunningham will work with his colleagues in the coming year to take this opportunity for much needed reform to the program. Since 1996, Cunningham has used his influence as a Member of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee to fight for significant funding increases for IDEA. He believes, however, that the federal government is still failing to pay its proper share of the cost of ensuring a quality education for children with special needs. Of equal concern to Cunningham is the fact that the IDEA system is fraught with problems, resulting in the mislabeling of students (particularly minorities) and tying the hands of teachers and local school officials. President Bush has established a commission on IDEA reform that is expected to issue its recommendations this summer. Once the Commission issues its report, Cunningham will work with his colleagues to lay the groundwork for legislative action. The House Education and Workforce Committee is currently seeking feedback from parents, teachers, and administrators regarding their experiences with the IDEA program. Cunningham urges the people of the 51st District to visit <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> to share their experiences and suggestions.

**Higher Education.** The Committee on Education and the Workforce will this year be considering legislation titled "FED. UP" (short for "Upping the Effectiveness of Our Federal Student Aid Programs"). The Committee used the Internet to identify and simplify burdensome regulations in the Higher Education Act that work against college students and personnel. Interested parties were asked to visit the FED. UP website and provide recommendations for streamlining current regulations. The project received approximately 3,000 responses from college officials, administrators, and other personnel who operate America's institutions of higher learning, laying the groundwork for important reforms that the committee will proceed with in 2002. Cunningham, whose district is home to Cal State University San Marcos (CSUSM), is a strong proponent of this legislation. Cunningham has also delivered federal funding for the Barahona Center for the Study of Books in Spanish at CSUSM.

**Olympic Scholarships:** Authorized by the 1998 Higher Education Act Amendments, the U.S. Olympic Scholarship program enables American athletes in training for the full range of Olympic Sports to be able to pursue their advanced training and a higher education. Cunningham, who once trained swimmers who won gold and silver medals in the Mexico City Summer Olympics, understands that the vast majority of America's Olympic athletes, even those who win gold medals, never see multi-millions of dollars, or product endorsement contracts, or any amount of glamour associated with professional athletes. Like all other Americans, they need a solid education to get on the path for a successful future. These scholarships help to defray the cost of tuition for students training at the Arco Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, California, and the three other Olympic Training Centers across the country. Cunningham has worked with the Committee on Education and the Workforce to make changes to the program to ensure that the scholarships are readily available to needy athletes, and each year encourages the Labor, Health and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, of which he is a Member, to provide \$1 million in funding for the program.



Cunningham congratulates winners of the 24 Challenge Math Tournament and stresses the importance of mathematics in education



## Salute to Stars

At the Encinitas Union School District "Salute to Stars" on May 28, 2002, Cunningham was honored for his efforts to promote public education for the children of California. Cunningham was presented with proclamations from the Superintendents and Board of Trustees of the Cardiff Elementary, Carlsbad Unified, Del Mar Union, Encinitas Union, Fallbrook Elementary, Fallbrook Union High School, Solana Beach Union and San Dieguito Union High School Districts. The proclamation recognized Cunningham's efforts in Congress to increase funding for programs like Title I for disadvantaged students, as well as Impact Aid, a program that reimburses schools for a loss of revenue as a result of a federal presence. This program is important to San Diego because of the presence of the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station, Camp Pendleton and numerous Navy installations. The resolution also recognized the success of the "24 Challenge" Math Tournament which was held at the San Diego Aerospace Museum earlier in the day on May 28. The Congressman was also lauded for delivering funding to assist the San Dieguito Transportation Cooperative which will coordinate regional bus services for schools.



Cunningham honored with "Salute to Stars" award by North County School Districts for his voting record in Congress supporting the California Education system



# Seniors Need Prescription Drug Benefits

Cunningham has led Congressional efforts to double funding for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by 2003. While he recognizes the need for continued research he also recognizes the needs of our seniors to have an affordable prescription drug program. Although Medicare coverage of preventive care services has been significantly expanded over the past five years, Cunningham remains concerned that Medicare still offers a benefit package that was developed four decades ago, a standard of excellence at the time that is inadequate today. And for many seniors, Medicare does not offer coverage choices that many of the privately insured have become accustomed to receiving. One of the largest flaws in Medicare coverage today is its failure to cover outpatient prescription drugs. Approximately 98 percent of private health insurance plans offer a prescription drug benefit or a cap on out-of-pocket expenses as an integral part of the benefit package.

Today, Medicare covers only 53 percent of the average senior's annual medical expenses. Nearly one-third of seniors, approximately 12 million,

don't have prescription drug coverage at all. Eighty percent of seniors take at least one prescription drug every day, and the average senior purchases more than 18 prescriptions per year. A plan to Sustaining the Medicare program for future generations of beneficiaries must include an honest and forthright effort by Congress to address these problems.



Cunningham at his townhall meeting in Rancho Bernardo discussing important senior issues with water aerobics class

## A Great Victory for Seniors!

### The Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002

Based on these principles, Cunningham and other Republicans in Congress developed the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002. The drug benefit provided in this legislation is voluntary, guarantees coverage to all seniors, and is the largest expansion of Medicare since its creation in 1965. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, those who now pay full retail prices would typically see the costs of each prescription cut by 60-85 percent, and their overall out-of-pocket drug costs would fall by as much as 70 percent.

The Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002 passed the House of Representatives with Cunningham's support on Thursday, June 27, 2002, by a 221 to 208 vote, and now moves to the Senate for consideration.



## Rx Good Medicine

### Common Sense Principles

In an effort to address these inadequacies in coverage, Cunningham worked with his colleagues in Congress to develop four common sense principles for providing a prescription drug benefit under Medicare:

1. Lower Costs Now
2. Guarantee all Seniors Prescription Drug Coverage
3. Improve Medicare with More Choices and More Savings for Seniors
4. Strengthen Medicare for the Future



# Specifically, The Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002 does the following:

- Provides an affordable and permanent prescription drug benefit for as little as \$33 a month available to all seniors. This is a voluntary program that guarantees seniors' the ability to choose among plans to find what works best for their prescription needs.
- Includes a standard benefit that begins with a \$250 deductible and pays 80% of spending up to the first \$1,000, and 50% up to \$2,000. Medicare beneficiaries who meet the low-income criteria (44% of beneficiaries nationally) will pay less than \$5 per prescription. All participants are protected against catastrophic costs, with out-of-pocket expenditures capped at \$3,700 per year.
- Offers immediate savings to seniors through an interim discount card.
- Stabilizes Medicare+Choice (M+C) by creating a new competitive structure for M+C plans to assure that seniors will have dependable choices, premium savings and early access to various medical services and treatment innovations that are commonly available to the private sector first. One measure provides for development of a new, competitive bidding system that could allow beneficiaries to realize savings of 25% off their premiums.
- Establishes an independent agency to administer Rx benefit standards to avoid conflicting interests that might occur if an agency both sets the standards and administers its own plans; this would be the case if benefits were administered directly under the Medicare program.
- Addresses concerns regarding regulatory cost and delay under Medicare (problems repeatedly expressed by beneficiaries, physicians and other providers), eases paperwork burdens, and improves Medicare's responsiveness to beneficiaries and health care providers. This will allow more time for physicians to care for their patients, rather than filling out burdensome paperwork.
- Earmarks \$2 billion for Medicaid to make payments to those hospitals that provide care to the most under-served communities and the neediest seniors.
- Provides substantial relief for physicians and hospitals who were incurring reductions in reimbursement.
- Increases incentives for providers to serve patients in rural areas and communities, which are essential to ensure that people everywhere have access not only to the prescription medicines they need, but also the best medical care possible.



## Strengthening Social Security

Social Security is a deeply personal matter for every American. It has provided retirement security to millions of Americans, and allowed our parents and grandparents to enjoy their retirement. Unfortunately,

many young people do not believe that Social Security will still be solvent by the time they reach retirement age. Congressman Cunningham is committed to strengthening Social Security while maintaining the benefits that seniors are currently receiving.

The President has made a promise to protect Social Security. The President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security was created by President Bush in May 2001 to formulate proposals to maintain Social Security's promise for today's retirees while improving that promise for younger workers.

Congressman Cunningham supports reform WITHOUT cutting benefits or raising payroll taxes and actions that do not alter the benefits that seniors currently receive. On December 13, 2001, Congress overwhelmingly voted to save Social Security without benefit cuts or tax increases. This legislation (H.Con.Res. 282) is consistent with the recommendations of the President's commission. Last Congress, the House adopted our Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act (H.R. 1259). It places all Social Security surpluses into a budget "lock-box," so these funds cannot be used for wasteful new government spending. Because of our effort, today's seniors, baby boomers and their children can count on the future of Social Security.

Republicans have offered various plans that will maintain long-term solvency while maintaining current benefits and Congressman Cunningham is committed to preserving Social Security's long-term solvency while protecting today's seniors by working with his colleagues to eliminate the unfair Social Security Earnings Test that singles out working seniors for double-

taxation. In 1997, Congress acted to provide some relief from this super-tax on seniors. But more must be done. You will be glad to know that Congressman Cunningham is a cosponsor of the Social Security Benefits Tax Relief Act of 2001 (H.R. 122), introduced by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX) on January 3, 2001. This bill would remove the limitation on the amount of outside income that a beneficiary may earn in wages without incurring a reduction in Social Security benefits.



60 Plus Association names Cunningham "Legislator of the Month" for his record and work in Congress



# More Funding for Transportation Projects

North San Diego County residents spend hours on San Diego's 1700 miles of freeways sitting in traffic. Today, San Diego is among the 20 most congested cities in the United States. While the local economy continues to grow with more businesses and jobs moving into the area, congested roads are degrading the quality of life and polluting our air. This traffic hurts businesses, families, the environment, and our peace of mind. Congressman Cunningham has committed to addressing that problem for our growing region by fixing our roads and improving transit systems to keep San Diego moving into the next century.

Transportation funding remains a top legislative priority for Cunningham. Better roads and infrastructure mean a better quality of life and more economic prosperity for San Diegans. Over the next 20 years, San Diego County's population is projected to grow by 38 percent, and the number of vehicle-miles traveled is expected to rise by almost half.

Cunningham continues to work as a member of the House Appropriations Committee to secure transportation funding for San Diego. This funding will help alleviate some of the traffic headaches facing San Diegans everyday and provide for our future needs. Funding for San Diego provided in the Fiscal Year 2002 transportation bill includes:

## **State Route 905, Border Entry, \$7,500,000**

### **State Route 905 Phase 1, \$1,000,000**

Will construct a four-lane freeway from I-805 to the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. This freeway connection is needed to move people and goods across the international border between the U.S. and Mexico.

### **I-5 HOV/General Purpose lanes, \$4,000,000**

Will complete a multi-phase project to provide critical capacity enhancements to the I-5 corridor.

### **I-5/SR-56 Connectors, \$2,000,000**

Will conduct environmental project studies and to design interchange connectors to complete the linkage of Interstate 5

with California State Route 56. These connectors will improve truck traffic by simplifying traffic patterns north of the I-5/I-805 "Wye" interchange.

### **San Diego Joint Transportation Operations Center (JTOC), \$3,500,000**

Will integrate multimodal transportation management functions in a central JTOC in downtown San Diego to improve access to the downtown ballpark, expanded convention center, and airport.

### **Oceanside-Escondido Light Rail System, \$6,500,000**

Will be used to enter into contracts for the purchase of vehicles and mainline work. It is one of only eight "new starts" projects that rates "highly recommended" in the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) annual New Starts Report for FY 2000.

### **Solana Beach Intermodal Transit Station Structure, \$500,000**

Will be used to initiate a funding package for parking expansion and other improvements at the Solana Beach station.

### **San Diego Trolley: Mission Valley East Extension, \$60,000,000**

Will continue final design and construction of the San Diego Trolley Mission Valley East line. This portion of the San Diego Trolley system is the highest priority project for the MTDB.

### **Mid-Coast Light Rail Transit Extension Project, \$1,000,000**

Will be used for continued design Mid-Coast Light Rail Transit extension.

### **San Dieguito Transportation Cooperative, \$300,000**

Will fund the San Dieguito Transportation Cooperative which provides school bus transportation to six school districts in the 51<sup>st</sup> Congressional District. This funding will assist the cooperative with design, environmental planning, acquisition and construction of a bus depot.

These projects are just the beginning of a long-term effort to improve our transportation system. They will not solve all of our problems, but they will help keep us moving, and support a better transit system for all of San Diego.



# Environmental Initiatives in San Diego

Representative Cunningham continues to bring a sense of balance to the ongoing environmental debates. As a firm conservationist, he has tried to balance consumer and business needs with long-term stewardship of our precious natural resources.

Cunningham has co-sponsored legislation to fund desalination research, with the goal of making salt water economically viable to process for public and commercial use. It currently costs around \$500 for Southern California to purchase an acre-foot of Colorado River water. It costs around \$800 to desalinate the same amount. If we can get the cost of desalinated water down, we will no longer be so dependent on the scarce Colorado River water. This will not only be to our economic advantage, but will also add to the long-term health of the Colorado River eco-system.

Cunningham has also weighed into the fight to maintain our coastal environment. He has continued to secure funding to re-seed our area beaches to prevent bluff and shoreline erosion. This not only protects commercial property and endangered lagoon eco-systems, but also provides economic consumer benefits for the affected communities. He has also fought to keep offshore drilling rigs out of California waters. Together, these efforts have gone a long way towards protecting our coastal environment and ensuring its long-term health, without commercial and economic drawbacks.

Cunningham believes that the best environmental policy is one of balance that uses our natural resources to economic and aesthetic benefit, while simultaneously maintaining them for future use.



## Congress Works For Veterans' Programs

Under President Bush's leadership, Congress this year authorized \$56.9 billion to fund the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) – an increase of almost 12% from last year. The House of Representatives has also passed several other important pieces of legislation including:

- **The Jobs for Veterans Act** – This act will reform veterans' job training and placement programs in the Department of Labor through a new system of incentives and accountability. Of key importance in this act is the requirement that for contracts of over \$100,000, federal contractors must take affirmative action to employ and promote qualified veterans.
- **The Veterans' and Survivors' Benefits Expansion Act** – This act will implement a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to disability compensation payments and expand benefit programs for veterans, their dependents and survivors. The act will also increase Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance coverage from \$90,000 to \$150,000.
- **The Veterans' Major Medical Facilities Construction Act** – This act authorizes \$285 million to repair, rehabilitate and retrofit ten VA Medical Centers (VAMC) this year. Of this amount, \$47.1 million is specified for the VAMC in San Diego.

Another priority for San Diego veterans is to secure additional cemetery space in our region. Congressman Cunningham is co-sponsoring legislation that calls for the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to establish two satellite veterans' cemeteries in the San Diego area. Passage of this bill will provide in-ground burial plots to veterans of our community who do not wish to be cremated or to be buried several hours away at other veterans' cemeteries. In the meantime, Cunningham is also working with Department of Defense officials

to determine if there is any excess military property which might be made available San Diego to provide another veterans' cemetery.

Veterans won a major victory this year with the passage of legislation that will phase out the 'concurrent receipt' offset that has unfairly penalized disabled veterans' retirement pay in the past. While this will be an incremental change over several years and will cover many, but not all, disabled veterans, it is a major step in the right direction. Cunningham, a lead sponsor of the legislation to eliminate the concurrent receipt offset, has committed to fight this battle until all disabled veterans are covered. As the war on terrorism has demonstrated for all Americans, those who serve our nation make great sacrifices. We must ensure their care and the benefits they have earned.



Congressman Cunningham joins San Diego in welcoming USS Stennis home and discusses the importance of our troops in the war on terrorism



## Cunningham for Energy Efficient Tax Credits

Last year, the House approved an energy bill based in large part on President Bush's comprehensive energy plan. This bill will provide tax incentives for the building of energy efficient buildings (both commercial and residential), the use of energy efficient heating and cooling systems, and the exploration and production of new energy sources. Congressman Cunningham, who voted for the measure and sponsored separate legislation to provide the energy efficiency tax credits, noted that the measure will provide the incentives required to eventually build an infrastructure that requires less energy to heat, cool and light. It will have a great impact on the nation, California, and San Diego in particular. This measure is now being considered by a House-Senate conference that will resolve differences between the two chambers' bills. Cunningham is pressing conferees to preserve, and consider expanding the energy efficient tax provisions.

While Cunningham supports the energy package developed by the House, he is concerned about one potential trouble spot: provisions in the Senate energy bill mandating use of ethanol. A staunch supporter of reducing emissions, Cunningham noted the burden such a requirement would have on California. If enacted, it would quickly reduce the state's portion of the highway money that is directly related to gasoline sales, and unfairly advantage the states that produce ethanol. As the largest state in the nation, and a large energy consumer, California stands to lose a lot from an ethanol mandate. Cunningham has joined with the California delegation to prevent that provision from becoming law.

Responding to last year's energy crisis, Congressman Cunningham is also exploring ways to make San Diego more energy independent. One recent initiative he took could put us well on the way. This plan would provide a parcel of land at MCAS Miramar to a local energy company and allow them to build a power plant on it. This state of the art, low emission, 750-megawatt plant will eventually have the capacity of to add an additional 6 billion kilowatts into our energy grid every year.

Looking to our future, Cunningham is seeking avenues to wean our nation off of its dependence on fossil fuels. One way to do this is to invest in research that shows promise for eventual commercial viability, such as fusion energy research which is being worked on by innovative companies in San Diego. Cunningham has supported funding for fusion energy research in our district – coincidentally an area in which many of our universities lead the way.

Cunningham sees a brighter energy future for San Diego. New, low emission sources of energy combined with incentives for efficient use, and research into alternative energy sources provide our best alternatives for the future. Throughout the negotiations on the energy bill and into the future, that will be the course Cunningham will pursue.





U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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*This mailing was prepared, published and  
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*Randy "Duke" Cunningham* M.C.

PRSRT STD

### Residential Customer

Fifty-First District  
California

# Report from Congress

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## TOUR UPDATE

Duke is pleased to announce that all federal building tours that were closed to the public after the September 11th terrorist attacks have reopened, some in limited capacity. Please contact his Washington DC office at (202) 225-5452 for more details. Reservations are recommended at least 2 months in advance.

Also check out his website: [www.house.gov/cunningham](http://www.house.gov/cunningham), to make tour requests. An updated tour list is as follows:

The White House: . . . . . Open to large community groups only. Individual family and small group tours still unavailable.

The U.S. Capitol: . . . . . Open to groups large and small. Family tours also available. Also arrange to view the House in session.

Bureau of Engraving  
and Printing: . . . . . Reopened.

FBI Building: . . . . . Reopened.

Supreme Court: . . . . . Open.

The State Department: . . Reopened.

## FLAG ORDER UPDATE

Following September 11th, the U.S. Capitol experienced a shortage in flags. While flag shipments have resumed, a backlog still exists depending on the type of flag ordered. Please contact Duke's Washington DC office at (202) 225-5452 to receive an update on your flag order.

## MAIL UPDATE

All postal mail sent to the U.S. Capitol enters an irradiation process upon arrival. The current delay in Congressional offices receiving mail averages 2 weeks, but expect longer delays. Correspondence via fax or webmail is suggested.



Cunningham welcomes Santa Fe Christian School to U.S. Capitol in May

WEBMAIL AT [WWW.HOUSE.GOV/CUNNINGHAM](http://WWW.HOUSE.GOV/CUNNINGHAM)